

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of reasons that follow. Claims 1-10 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,157,832 (“Lahtinen”). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant relies on M.P.E.P. § 2131, entitled “Anticipation – Application of 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), (b) and (e)” which states, “a claim is anticipated only if each and every element set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” Applicant respectfully submits that Lahtinen does not describe each and every element of independent claim 1.

As background, in a large capacity network the VLR is realized as a distributed database across multiple modules. In such large capacity systems the conventional method of assigning a MSRN is less than suitable. For example, the design of a MSRN information table is often resolved by employing a centralized management method or a simple fragmentation management method. If the centralized management method is employed, the MSRN information table is placed in a certain VLR. This results in low efficiency and a single point of failure. If the simple fragmentation management method is employed, the MSRN resource is fragmentized wherein each VLR module controls one piece of a fragment. Although fragmentation solves the problem of single point of failure and efficiency, it is difficult to expand and maintain a network using fragmentation. For example, when a VLR module needs to be added or removed, the fragmentation relationship of the MSRN must be changed which will influence other VLR modules. (See ¶ 0025.)

Accordingly, the invention as claimed in claim 1 eliminates the above-mentioned difficulties. Claim 1 recites: “[a] method for assigning a mobile subscriber roaming number, wherein in a Visitor Location Register, the mobile subscriber roaming number is managed by a plurality of Visitor Location Register modules, characterized in that: said mobile subscriber roaming number comprises a Visitor Location Register module number, and said Visitor

Location Register module number is utilized to directly determine the correspondence relationship between said assigned mobile subscriber roaming number and the Visitor Location Register module in said Visitor Location Register that manages said mobile subscriber roaming number.”

Accordingly, in claim 1, a Mobile Subscriber Roaming Number (“MSRN”) comprises a Visitor Location Register (“VLR”) module number. For example, in one embodiment of the claimed invention, the structure of the MSRN number is:

Country Code (“CC”) + MSC number + VLR module number + MRSN information table record number

Thus, in a system where the MSRN is managed by a plurality of VLR modules, a specific VLR module can be located according to the MSRN. Accordingly, when a Mobile Switching Center (“MSC”) receives a MSRN as claimed in claim 1, the relationship between an assigned mobile subscriber roaming number and a VLR module in the VLR that manages the mobile subscriber roaming number can be determined.

In contrast, Lahtinen does not disclose, teach or suggest a method for assigning a mobile subscriber roaming number wherein the mobile subscriber roaming number comprises a Visitor Location Register module number as claimed in claim 1. Instead, Lahtinen discloses adding a Service-Dependent Code (“SERVN”) to a MSRN. Lahtinen teaches that a Gateway MSC (“GMSC”) uses the SERVN to select an appropriate transmission link for routing. As shown in Fig. 5, the structure of a MSRN according to Lahtinen is: **CC + NDC + SERVN + SN**, wherein SERVN represents service-dependent information indicating the service of the call. (See Col. 5, lines 60-62.). For example, SERVN may indicate speech services or other services over which to route a call. (See Col. 6, lines 55-60.)

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the service code SERVN is a VLR module number. Applicant respectfully submits that this interpretation is incorrect. SERVN represents service-dependent information indicating the service of the call. For example, different service route functions are provided to subscribers by assigning different SERVN to subscribers. In a system where there are a plurality of VLR modules, a MSC cannot acquire VLR module information using SERVN since the SERVN will only indicate the service of the call. In contrast, as claimed in claim 1 “a VLR module number is utilized to directly

determine the correspondence relationship between said assigned mobile subscriber roaming number and the Visitor Location Register module in said Visitor Location Register.” This allows a VLR module to be located according to the MSRN. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Lahtinen does not disclose each and every element of claim 1. Specifically, Lahtinen does not disclose a method for assigning a mobile subscriber roaming number wherein the “mobile subscriber roaming number comprises a Visitor Location Register module number.”

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 1 and that the rejection be withdrawn. In addition, claims 2 and 5-10 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lahtinen in view of Applicant’s admitted prior art (“AAPA”).

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 3 and 4 and that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for

such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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